

1829

May 1, 1885

To *A. W. Henderson* of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1829  
(or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best:)

SIR,—

It is the aim of the subscriber, in collecting the information asked for by the following questions, to obtain materials for a concise Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Presidents, Professors and Tutors of Union College;—of those who have received Honorary Degrees from it, and of all who have ever entered that Institution, whether Graduates or not.

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the ready aid which they shall impart. This circular will be sent to every Graduate whose residence is known, (or, if deceased, to some near connection,) and it is confidently expected that no one will neglect to return it in due time, with as full information as circumstances will allow:—some of the questions, indeed, it may not be possible to answer with certainty; others not at all: still, it is hoped that no important facts will be withheld because of their fewness.

Death has removed the twenty-four original Trustees, the first three Presidents, the early Professors and Tutors, and from eight hundred to one thousand of the Alumni of the College. Doubtless their friends and descendants will cheerfully contribute such information as may be necessary to illustrate the lives and services of the departed.

The subscriber desires every aid that may help to throw light upon the personal history of those concerned:—Obituary Notices; Biographical Sketches, Epitaphs, Funeral Sermons, Newspaper Notices of election to important offices or stations, Business Cards and Advertisements; also, copies of their Literary Works, Addresses, Sermons, Essays, Newspapers, engraved Portraits, &c.; all of which will be deposited and preserved in an Alcove of the College Library, to be set apart for "Graduates' Works."

He also requests that all future changes affecting the answers which shall be given, be made known to him from time to time:—especially the deaths of Graduates, and that the usual obituary notices or funeral sermons published on such occasions, be sent with the announcements, as it is his purpose to publish these deaths hereafter once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, Librarian.

UNION COLLEGE,  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y. }

#### SPECIMENS OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

John Glidden Brown was born in Quinipeck, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Glidden) Brown, who moved to Epsom, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Helderbergh High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Septimus H. Smith, of Great Falls; was admitted to the bar in 1821; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoesen, Esq. In 1830 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1832-5; State Senator 1836-8; Member of Congress 1839-41; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842-6. He died June 30, 1849, of cholera, aged 49 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions, he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818-20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marbletown, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1825. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Haselton, Conn., 1825-30; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831-40; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the "Communicant's Companion." He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778, in Benton, N. Y.; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway; was prepared for College at High Holme School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1795; taught a few months in Suncook, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Potecar, of Camermile; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhine, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813-15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1830-5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the "Functions of the Brain," and on "Gunshot Wounds."

- N. B. 1. Let the answers to the following questions be as full and authentic as possible; but when doubtful let them be marked thus (?).  
2. When the person is deceased let some near relative or friend fill out the blanks to the best of his knowledge; if he have but one fact, let that be sent.  
3. Let as much time be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.  
4. In case this sheet be not sufficient to contain all the facts to be sent, add another of the same size, if possible, leaving an inner margin of not less than one inch for binding.  
5. In cases where no answers to this circular shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notices, or to rely upon information, gathered from other sources, and, therefore, not always authentic.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FOREGOING SKETCHES.

- I. Name. *Abner Wells Henderson*  
[Let this be written plainly and the middle names in full.]
- II. Names of both Parents; thus:—  
[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]  
*Solomon & Eliza (Weels) Henderson*
- III. Birth Place. *Bridgewater Oneida Co. N.Y.* Birth Day and Year. *June 21<sup>st</sup> 1812*
- IV. Various residences and dates; thus:—  
[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-24; Albany, N. Y., 1824-30; New-York City, 1830-54.]  
*Schenectady 1818-38, Whitesboro 1838-40, Utica 1840-3*  
*Chicago 1843-47 Morris 1850-54 Elgin 1854*
- V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:—  
[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L.L. D., 1815-17.]  
*Schenectady Academy J. S. Spencer Wm. Peattie*  
*1824-27*
- VI. At what College he graduated, and when. *Union College 1829*
- VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:—  
[Teaching, Washington, D. C., 1847-48, or Merchant's Clerk, New-York City, 1849-51.]  
*Teaching Pittsfield 1829. Schenectady 1830-33*
- VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:—  
[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1822-5 or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.]  
*Theology at Pittsfield with Prof. Henry P. Jaffee D. D. 1829-30*  
*Schenectady with Rev. J. W. Verhten D. D. 1830-33*
- IX. Where he has practised his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus:—  
[Epis., Somerville, N. J., 1827-30; Pres., Albany, N. Y., 1830-5; New-York City, 1835-54.]  
*Pres. Union Ridge 1848-9 Morris Ill. 1849-54*  
*Elgin Ill. 1854*
- X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:—  
[Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1829-35; or Farmer, Geneseo, N. Y., 1835-54; or Manufacturer, Schoharie, N. Y., 1841-48; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, &c.]  
*Teacher Whitesboro 1835-40 Utica 1840-43*  
*Chicago 1843-47.*

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:—

[Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1839-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited.

[Copies are solicited for the "Graduates Alcove" in College Library.]

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:—

[M. D., from Albany Medical College 1845; or LL. D., Amherst College, 1850, &c.]

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him?

[One or two copies, together with his autograph, are solicited for College Library.]

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.

[Send any printed notice, biographical sketch, funeral sermon, &c. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following questions, in which case add an additional sheet.]

Yours Respectfully  
*A. W. Henderson*



XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

XII. The literary or scientific works he has written or edited.  
[Copies are collected for the "Graduates' Album" in College Library.]

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.

XVIII. Some account of his pedigree and family; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c.

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:—  
[M.D. from Albany Medical College 1845; or LL.D. Amherst College, 1850, &c.]

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him?  
[One or two copies together with his autograph, are collected in College Library.]

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.

XIX. List of such graduates as may not be widely known; their residences, professions, dates of deaths, &c.; the name and residence, also, of some near friend of the deceased, that further information may be sought for; thus:—

[John Orton Smith, Banker, Chicopee, Mass., died 1848. His brother, Joseph H. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]

Rev. Alex. H. Webster died at Washington Dec-  
S 1828. His brother James Webster resides in  
Givens Edin Co. Penn,



# HENDERSON, ABNER WELLS

Graduated from Union College- Class of 1829 - AB degree

The following information was taken from the Union College Student Records, First Term 1827-1828 to Second Term 1828-1829 and Third Term 1828-1829 to Third Term 1834-1835, in which Abner W. Henderson is listed as No.34:

## Academic Year 1827-1828- Junior Year

	<u>First Term</u> <u>Ending December</u> Examination	<u>Second Term</u> <u>Ending April</u> Examination	<u>Third Term</u> <u>Ending July</u> Examination
	(No record for this term- page missing from book)		
Attendance		99%	100%
Conduct		100	100
Cicero de Oratore		100	
Trigonometry		100	
Mechanics		100	
Natural Philosophy			100
Analytic Geometry			100
Calculus			100

## Academic Year 1828-1829 - Senior Year

	<u>First Term</u> <u>Ending December</u> Examination	<u>Second Term</u> <u>Ending April</u> Examination	<u>Third Term</u> <u>Ending July</u> Examination
Attendance	100%	99%	(No marks listed for this term)
Conduct	100	100	
Natural Philosophy	100		
Chemistry	98	98	
Kames	100	100	
Astronomy		100	



A. WELLS HENDERSON, 1829, of Schenectady, was a member of the Philomathean Society.  
Philomathean Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1872)



## ABNER W. HENDERSON.

Before closing this chapter, we will refer to the school of the late Rev. A. W. Henderson, a Presbyterian clergyman, who established here, in the fall of 1843, "the first young ladies' seminary of a higher grade." The institution, called the "Chicago Female Seminary," subsequently on Clark St., between Madison and Monroe Streets, and many of our older residents will remember the "low, roomy, wooden structure, embowered in trees, and cut off from the street by a high board fence,"--the school-premises of Mr. Henderson. After some four years of successful labor in this school, Mr. Henderson retired from it, and resumed his labor in the pulpit.

A long-time resident of Chicago, assures us that many of Mr. Henderson's pupils "are now gracing their own elegant homes" in Chicago and elsewhere.

Abner W. Henderson was born in Bridgewater, N. Y., in the year 1812. His parents subsequently removed to Schenectady, and he entered Union College at the age of thirteen years, and graduated four years thereafter, having taken front rank in scholarship. He pursued his theological studies privately, under the guidance of his pastor, and after licensure, he occupied the Home-Mission field a year or more in the State of Georgia. From a lung difficulty, he was obliged to suspend his missionary labors, and returning to the North, he opened a female seminary, in the village of Whitesboro, N. Y. During his residence in Whitesboro, he married the daughter of Dea. Seth Eddy, a prominent merchant of Stillwater, N. Y. Subsequently he taught in Utica, N. Y., and in the autumn of 1843, he removed to Chicago, and opened a seminary for young ladies. After four or five years, he resumed his ministerial duties, several years in Morris, Ill., and also in Elgin. Returning to Chicago, he was, subsequently, Chaplain in the Army, during the late war; afterward, with his family, he passed some four years in Europe, but returned to this city in 1869. Mr. Henderson died in Chicago, October 18, 1872; in the words of Rev. Dr. Patterson, who preached his funeral sermon, "In all his career through life, Mr. Henderson bore with him the characteristics of a righteous man."

Chicago Antiquities  
Henry H. Hurlburt  
Chicago, Ill.  
1881.

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Abner Wells Henderson A.B.  
1829



1829  
Abner Wells Henderson F.B.